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1995 Review and Extension Conference

of the Parties to the Treaty on the

Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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MAIN COMMITTEE I

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 2 May 1995, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

REVIEW OF ARTICLE VI AND OF THE EIGHTH TO TWELFTH PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

1. The CHAIRMAN introduced his conference room paper on the review of article VI and of the eighth to twelfth preambular paragraphs (NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.20), in which the Conference recalled that, under article VI, each of the parties undertook to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear-arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In the section on supporting measures, the conference room paper recalled that the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty was one of the most important measures to halt the nuclear-arms race and would significantly enhance the universality and continued viability of the Treaty. Other measures included a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other explosive devices, which would be the subject of a convention to be negotiated by an ad hoc committee of the Conference on Disarmament, as agreed in March 1995. In conclusion, the paper took note with appreciation of the reaffirmation at the Conference on Disarmament on 6 April 1995 by France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of their commitments to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament. In that regard, a programme for planned reductions would greatly assist the confidence of the non-nuclear-weapon States in the efficacy of the Treaty.

2. Ms. FORSYTH (New Zealand) said her delegation believed that it was necessary to look beyond the issues currently being negotiated, namely the comprehensive test-ban treaty and security assurances. She proposed that the text of document NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.22 should be inserted in the Chairman's conference room paper (NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.20). The text read:

> "The Conference welcomed statements by the United States and the Russian Federation that their bilateral nuclear-arms race had ended. The Conference expressed its wish to make permanent the cessation of the nuclear-arms race as a further contribution to meeting the goals of article VI. The Conference therefore agreed that consideration should be given to the merits of completing a comprehensive nuclear-test ban and a ban on the production of fissile material for weapons purposes with an effectively verifiable ban on the production of nuclear weapons."

3. Mr. BERNHARDSEN (Norway) said that, given the importance of the safe handling and storage of nuclear-weapons components, his delegation proposed that the first paragraph of document NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.16 should be inserted in the Chairman's paper (NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.20), after paragraph 10, forming a new paragraph 11. The text of that paragraph read:

> "The Conference welcomes the reversal and transformation of the nuclear-arms race into a process of nuclear-arms control and disarmament. Over the next decade, thousands of nuclear weapons are scheduled for dismantling and destruction. This disarmament process requires strict procedures for the safe handling and storage of nuclear-weapons components

and weapons-grade fissile material in order to prevent the material from falling into wrong hands and in order to take account of major environmental concerns."

4. Mr. WIRANATA-ATMADJA (Indonesia), speaking on the question of the cessation of the nuclear-arms race, said some nuclear-weapon States were continuing to develop weapons of mass destruction in contradiction to their commitments under the Treaty and that two such States had violated article VI and the relevant preambular paragraphs of the Treaty by extending an agreement to further develop nuclear weapons and their delivery vehicles. Furthermore, in order to retain the technological edge in military systems, one major nuclear-weapon State had embarked upon a more sophisticated programme to refine its nuclear-weapons design using state-of-the-art technology. His delegation was very much concerned about that discouraging development, as it could trigger a renewed nuclear-arms race among nuclear-weapon States. Accordingly, his delegation proposed that the Conference should review the need to negotiate a nuclear-test-ban treaty in order to eliminate those weapons of mass destruction forever.

5. While his delegation commended the positive developments of recent years in the area of nuclear disarmament, it believed that many of the significant measures undertaken by the two major nuclear-weapon States, the Russian Federation and the United States of America, had not been adopted to fulfil their obligations under article VI, but rather as the result of fundamental changes in the international political landscape of the post-cold-war era. Furthermore, those exercises had been conducted at bilateral levels only and had not included other nuclear-weapon States. Article VI required multilateral negotiations on the issues under consideration. The Conference on Disarmament, the sole multilateral negotiating body, could play a significant role in that regard. His delegation believed that the implementation of article VI had fallen far short of the expectations of non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty and reiterated its firm position that it was preferable to extend the Treaty for fixed periods in order to give sufficient time for all States parties to fulfil their long overdue obligations assumed under the Treaty. Only once strong commitments from all States parties to achieve those long-sought objectives had been obtained, could the Treaty be extended well beyond 1995.

REVIEW OF ARTICLES I AND II AND OF THE FIRST TO THIRD PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPHS

6. Mr. KELLER (Germany) said that his delegation adamantly disagreed with the idea set forth in paragraph 9 of the Chairman's conference room paper on the review of articles I and II and of the first to third preambular paragraphs (NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.8/Rev.4), and requested that the paragraph should be deleted.

7. Mr. MERNIER (Belgium) said that paragraph 9 of the Chairman's paper was redundant and diminished the ideas set forth in paragraphs 5 and 6. Moreover, it was untimely and unnecessary to clarify articles I and II, 25 years after their drafting. In particular, the last sentence of paragraph 9 was out of place and repeated the point made in paragraph 6 regarding the vital need for the nuclear-weapon States and the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty to comply scrupulously and unreservedly with their respective obligations under articles I and II.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee would now begin informal drafting.

The meeting rose at 4.05 p.m.